

I support the FISTS petition in its entirety. The amateur service has suffered enough in the way of simplification and "dumbing down" over the years. For the amateur service to remain a valuable resource and provide skilled operators the technical skill required to gain privileges must be raised. The Morse code testing requirement should remain and preferably be raised for Extra Class licensees. The Morse code may not be utilized in other radio services, but is the second most popular mode of operation in the amateur service and can provide more reliable communications with minimal equipment during times of poor propagation than any other mode using comparable equipment.

For some this is simply a past time, but for the majority this is a way to serve our country and community in times of need with the added privilege of casual camaraderie in the meantime. This petition presents many truths that should be seriously considered when preparing for the future of amateur radio and the skill and value of the operators which are and which will become part of this valuable service.

Every effort should be made to adopt RM-10811 in full.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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